

In the Claims

1-10. (cancelled)

11. (new) A valve, comprising:

a valve housing;

at least first, second and third fluid ports extending through said valve housing;

a main piston guided for movement in said valve housing;

a pilot control with a pilot piston actuated by an electromagnet to move to an open position where fluid flows from one of said first and second fluid ports, actuated by said main piston, via a cross-sectional constriction orifice in said main piston and via said control piston to said third fluid port actuated by said pilot piston, said main piston traveling to a respective control position as a result of an accompanying pressure drop to actuate said first and second fluid ports relative to amounts of fluid, piston lift of said main piston with said pilot piston in said open position being proportional to current supplied to said electromagnet;

a compression spring between said main piston and said pilot piston and received in a main piston recess in said main piston, said cross-sectional constriction orifice discharging into said main piston recess; and

a contact piece on a free end of said compression spring adjacent said pilot piston, said contact piece connected to a free end of said pilot piston by a contact ball.

12. (new) A valve according to claim 11 wherein

a selector valve is in said main piston, and has a cross-sectional constriction.

13. (new) A valve according to claim 11 wherein

said electromagnet comprises at least one armature, a coil and a pole tube with said armature being one of moved out of said pole tube and moved into said pole tube when said coil is supplied with current.

14. (new) A valve according to claim 13 wherein

said armature is moved into said pole tube when said coil is supplied with current; and another compression spring biases said pilot piston towards said open position thereof.

15. (new) A valve according to claim 11 wherein

said pilot control is designed as a gate valve; and

said pilot piston is cylindrical at least on a free end thereof, and is movable in a longitudinal direction in a corresponding longitudinal recess in a part of said valve housing.

16. (new) A valve according to claim 11 wherein

said pilot control is designed as a seat valve; and

said free end of said pilot piston has a closing and sealing part interacting with a seat part on a part of said valve housing.

17. (new) A valve according to claim 11 wherein

additional sealing parts of a sealing system are on an outer circumference of said pilot piston.

18. (new) A valve according to claim 11 wherein

said contact piece comprises a contact piece recess receiving said contact ball, said contact piece recess only extending partially into and not through said contact piece.

19. (new) A valve according to claim 11 wherein

said contact piece is movably mounted in said valve housing, and is biased against said pilot piston by said compression spring.

20. (new) A valve system, comprising:

a valve including

a valve housing,

at least first, second and third fluid ports extending through said valve housing,

a main piston guided for movement in said valve housing,

a pilot control with a pilot piston actuated by an electromagnet to move to an open position where fluid flows from one of said first and second fluid ports, actuated by said main piston, via a cross-sectional constriction orifice in said main piston and via said control piston to said third fluid port actuated by said pilot piston, said main piston traveling to a respective control position as a result of an accompanying pressure drop to actuate said first and second fluid ports relative to amounts of fluid, piston lift of said main piston with said pilot piston in said open position being proportional to current supplied to said electromagnet,

a compression spring between said main piston and said pilot piston and received in a main piston recess in said main piston, said cross-sectional constriction orifice discharging into said main piston recess, and

a contact piece on a free end of said compression spring adjacent said pilot piston, said contact piece connected to a free end of said pilot piston by a contact ball; and

a pressure compensator, coupled to said valve, forming an adjustable metering orifice of a flow regulator.

21. (new) A valve system according to claim 20 wherein

a selector valve is in said main piston, and has a cross-sectional constriction

22. (new) A valve system according to claim 20 wherein

said electromagnet comprises at least one armature, a coil and a pole tube with said armature being one of moved out of said pole tube and moved into said pole tube when said coil is supplied with current.

23. (new) A valve system according to claim 22 wherein

said armature is moved into said pole tube when said coil is supplied with current; and another compression spring biases said pilot piston towards said open position thereof.

24. (new) A valve system according to claim 20 wherein

said pilot control is designed as a gate valve; and

said pilot piston is cylindrical at least on a free end thereof, and is movable in a longitudinal direction in a corresponding longitudinal recess in a part of said valve housing.

25. (new) A valve system according to claim 20 wherein

said pilot control is designed as a seat valve; and

said free end of said pilot piston has a closing and sealing part interacting with a seat part on a part of said valve housing.

26. (new) A valve system according to claim 20 wherein

additional sealing parts of a sealing system are on an outer circumference of said pilot piston.

27. (new) A valve system according to claim 20 wherein

said contact piece comprises a contact piece recess receiving said contact ball, said contact piece recess only extending partially into and not through said contact piece.

28. (new) A valve system according to claim 20 wherein

said contact piece is movably mounted in said valve housing, and is biased against said pilot piston by said compression spring.